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*At least 97 people have died in a military plane crash on the island of Java. The Hercules transport plane which was carrying troops and their families was flying from the capital Jakarta to the town of Madium when it crashed. Lucy Williamson reports:*

**Eyewitness reports** describe a big explosion before the plane reached the runway. An army spokesman said the plane **smashed** into local houses before **skidding to a halt** in a nearby field and **bursting into flames**.

The aircraft was almost completely destroyed in the crash - the **wreckage** is **strewn** across East Java's bright green rice fields; its tail the only piece left **intact**. Rescue teams have been pulling out the dead and injured from the smoking **debris**. The plane was carrying military personnel and their families - including 10 children.

It's not clear yet why the plane crashed. The army says weather and landing conditions were good, and that the plane itself was in good condition. But the airforce has long complained that it is **underfunded** and that it lacks spare parts due to long-running US military **sanctions** which have recently been lifted.

Lucy Williamson, BBC News, Jakarta

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>eyewitness reports</b>	descriptions of the plane crash given by people who saw it happen
<b>smashed</b>	moved with great force against something hard, usually causing damage or injury
<b>skidding to a halt</b>	sliding along a surface with no control until it stopped
<b>bursting into flames</b>	suddenly burning in a violent and powerful way
<b>wreckage</b>	badly damaged remains of the plane
<b>strewn</b>	scattered or thrown untidily
<b>intact</b>	complete and in its original condition
<b>debris</b>	remains of the plane
<b>underfunded</b>	does not received enough money
<b>sanctions</b>	official orders to stop trade with another country (usually because of a political disagreement)

**More on this story:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8058721.stm>

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